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Public Printer of the United States

**Prepared Statement before the
Subcommittee on Legislative
Branch Appropriations,
Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. Senate**

*On GPO's Appropriations Request
for FY 2012*

Thursday, March 17, 2011

**138 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

2:30 PM



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Mr. Chairman, Senator Hoeven, and Members of the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations:

It is an honor to be here today to present the appropriations request of the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) for fiscal year (FY) 2012. Our request is for the Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation and the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents, both of which are included in the annual Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. These two accounts cover GPO's provision of congressional information products and services as authorized by law and our provision of public access to congressional and other Government information products through statutorily-established information dissemination programs under the Superintendent of Documents.

All other GPO functions and activities—including the production of U.S. passports for the State Department as well as secure credentials for congressional and agency use, the procurement of information products and services in partnership with the private sector, the sales of Government information products and services to the public, and related operations—are financed on a reimbursable basis through GPO's business-like Revolving Fund, which is authorized through the annual Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.

GPO



Background

With just 2,200 employees, GPO is the Federal Government's primary centralized resource for producing, procuring, cataloging, indexing, authenticating, disseminating, and preserving the official information products of the U.S. Government in digital and tangible forms. The agency is responsible for the production and distribution of information products for all three branches of the Federal Government, including U.S. passports for the Department of State as well as the official publications of Congress, the White House and other Federal agencies, and the courts.

Along with sales of publications in digital and tangible formats to the public, GPO supports openness and transparency in Government by providing permanent public access to Federal Government information at no charge through its Federal Digital System (www.fdsys.gov), which has more than 250,000 Federal titles online and sees more than 25 million documents downloaded every month, and through partnerships with approximately 1,220 libraries nationwide participating in the Federal Depository Library Program. In addition to GPO's Web site, www.gpo.gov, we communicate with the public routinely via Twitter twitter.com/USGPO, YouTube www.youtube.com/user/gpoprinter, and Facebook www.facebook.com/USGPO.

We first opened our doors for business 150 years ago this month, on March 4, 1861, the same day Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th President. Our mission can be traced to the requirement in Article I of the Constitution that each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings and from time to time publish the same. Senator Schumer put as statement in the *Congressional Record* recognizing GPO's anniversary, which I'm pleased to attach to this statement.

In our history we have produced every great American state paper—and an uncounted number of other Government publications—since President Lincoln’s time, including the Emancipation Proclamation. Social Security cards, Medicare and Medicaid information, census forms, tax forms, citizenship forms, military histories ranging from the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* to the latest accounts of our forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, emergency documents like the ration cards and the “Buy Bonds” posters used during World War II, the Warren Commission Report on President Kennedy’s assassination, the Watergate transcripts, the 9/11 Commission Report, Presidential inaugural addresses, Supreme Court opinions, and the great acts of Congress that have shaped our society—all these as well as millions of other documents from the historic to the humble have been produced by GPO on their way to use by Congress, Federal agencies, and the American public.

For the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House, and the committees of the Senate and House, we produce the documents and publications required by the legislative and oversight processes of Congress, including the daily *Congressional Record*, bills, reports, legislative calendars, hearings, committee prints, and other documents, as well as stationery, franked envelopes, and other materials such as memorials and condolence books, programs and invitations, phone books, and the other products needed to conduct business of Congress. We also detail expert staff to support the information product requirements of Senate and House committees and congressional offices such as the Senate Office of Legislative Counsel.



The production of the *Congressional Record* alone is a remarkable job, averaging about 170 pages per issue but ranging in size from a few pages to hundreds of pages per night depending on the amount of business transacted, all formatted, paginated, proofed, corrected, uploaded for online access, printed, and delivered overnight, every night Congress is in session. The history of our Nation as revealed in the proceedings of Congress is preserved for generations to come in the permanent edition of the *Congressional Record* and in the *Congressional Serial Set*, containing all the numbered reports and documents of each Congress and published continuously since 1817, both produced by GPO.

Since taking office in early January, I’ve met with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House and various Members and staff, and have heard repeatedly about the utility of the products we provide for Members and staff in performing the work of their offices and their committees. Ensuring that utility—supporting Congress in carrying out its constitutional legislative function—is our most important job. In addition, with the Library of Congress and the National Archives, the work we perform is a basic part of governmental openness and transparency, and an integral part of the creation and preservation of the record of our Government for the American people.

GPO and Digital Information Technologies

As Archivist of the United States David Ferriero recently said, GPO has not rested with drums of printer’s ink and rolls of paper measured by the ton. Our present and future are clearly being defined by digital technology, and digital technology itself has radically changed the way printing is performed today. This is especially true where the information products used by the Senate and House of Representatives are concerned. GPO’s conversion to digital databases for the composition of congressional publications occurred more than a generation ago. Today the activities associated with creating congressional information databases comprise the majority of the work funded by our annual Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation.

In addition to using these databases to produce printed products as required by Congress, we upload them to the Internet via our online information systems, known previously as GPO Access and today as GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys). Since we first went online with congressional information in 1994, these systems have provided Congress and the public with the definitive source not only of legislative but executive and judicial information online.

Our creation of digital databases of congressional information from which we can print and provide online public access has dramatically increasing productivity and dramatically reduced costs to the taxpayer. As our budget submission shows, our digital production systems have reduced the level of the Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation by more than two-thirds in constant dollar terms since 1975 while expanding our information capabilities exponentially.

GPO's congressional database systems also form the basic building blocks of other information systems supporting Congress. Our congressional information databases are provided directly to the Library of Congress to support its THOMAS system as well as the legislative information systems the Library makes available to Senate and House offices. GPO and the Library are also collaborating today on the digitization of previously printed documents, such as the *Congressional Record* and the *Statutes at Large*, to make them more broadly available to Congress and the public, and we are jointly developing a new process for updating the digital edition of the *Constitution Annotated*.



GPO's digital systems also support other key Federal publications, including the *U.S. Budget* and, most importantly, the *Federal Register* and associated products, which we also produce. Through GPO's efforts, the online *Federal Register* is being made available in extensible markup language (XML) to support bulk data downloads via www.data.gov, and with the Office of the Federal Register we developed the online *Federal Register 2.0*, an innovative approach to making information on Federal regulations and related documents available to the public. Our advanced authentication systems, supported by public key infrastructure (PKI), are an essential component for assuring the digital security of congressional and agency documents.

The other major products that GPO produces are U.S. passports for the Department of State, the premier component of our secure and intelligent documents business unit. At one time no more than a conventionally printed document, passports today incorporate a chip and antenna array capable of carrying biometric identification data, which with other security features has transformed this document into the most secure identification credential obtainable. We have also developed a line of secure identification "smart cards" to support the credential requirements of the Department of Homeland Security for certain border crossing documents, and our secure credential unit has been certified as the only government-to-government provider of credentials meeting the requirements of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12).

GPO in Partnership with Industry

Other than congressional and inherently governmental work such as the *Federal Register*, the *Budget*, and secure and intelligent documents, we produce virtually all other information product requirements via contract through a longstanding partnership with the private sector printing industry. In fact, our procurement operation handles approximately 75% of all work sent to GPO for production, amounting to \$450 million to \$500 million annually. This

system is one of the Government's longest running and most successful programs of utilizing the private sector, which is represented by more than 16,600 individual firms registered to do business with us, the vast majority of whom are small businesses averaging 20 employees per firm. Contracts are awarded on a purely competitive basis; there are no set-asides or preferences in contracting other than what is specified in law and regulation, including a requirement for Buy American. This partnership provides great economic opportunity for the private sector.

GPO and Open, Transparent Government

Producing and distributing the official publications of our Government fulfills an informing role originally envisioned by the Founders, when James Madison said:

A popular Government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.

A key mechanism for this purpose is the Federal Depository Library Program, which today serves millions of Americans through a network of some 1,220 public, academic, law, and other libraries located in virtually every congressional district across the Nation. These libraries are critical links between "We the People" and the information provided by the Federal Government. GPO provides the libraries with information products in online or tangible formats, and the libraries in turn make these available to the public at no charge and provide additional help and assistance to depository library users. One of the other programs we operate is in fulfillment of an international treaty. Under it, we distribute certain Federal publications to other governments abroad as designated by the Library of Congress. In return, they send the Library their official publications, which the Library then makes available for the use of Congress and the public. This helps maintain the universal nature of the Library's collections, as Librarian of Congress James Billington recently pointed out.

Along with these programs, we also provide public access to the wealth of official Federal information through public sales featuring secure ordering through an online bookstore for GPO sales publications and a partnership with the private sector to offer Federal publications as e-Books, and we operate effective and efficient information distribution programs for other Federal agencies on a reimbursable basis, including the General Services Administration's Consumer Information Center publications.

Recent Actions

Since taking office on January 3 this year, my management team and I have worked to reduce spending and ensure that GPO's finances remain sound in the face of ongoing constraints on the Federal budget. We have reduced our appropriations request for FY 2012 by more than \$5 million from what was originally submitted to OMB. We cut GPO's annual spending plan as previously submitted to the Joint Committee on Printing by \$15 million and implemented controls on hiring, travel, certain contractual services, and related discretionary accounts. We realigned GPO's organization so the Chief Financial Officer reports directly to me rather than through subordinate officers, and implemented a task force on recovery of outstanding payments from Federal agencies. Otherwise, there is continuity of ongoing initiatives such



as the development of FDsys, support for our Oracle suite of business enterprise services, and planning for continuity of operations (COOP). We are also pursuing additional revenue opportunities, particularly in the field of secure credentialing, as well as increased utilization of our printing procurement capability by Federal agencies.

My meetings with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House were to discuss how GPO can best assist them in supporting the needs of Congress. We have been meeting with both staff and Members of the appropriations committees and cooperating with them in their effort to provide for appropriations beyond the current continuing resolution. We fully understand the intention of Congress to control its spending and you will have our cooperation in meeting this goal.

FY 2012 Appropriations Request

For FY 2012, we are requesting a total of \$148,474,000, a reduction of \$5.2 million, or 3.4%, from the amount submitted to the Office of Management and Budget late last year, and an increase of just \$1,013,000 over the continuing resolution (P.L. 111-242, as amended).

Our request includes two one-time components: \$1.4 million for work supporting the 2013 Presidential inauguration and \$1.4 to fund a shortfall in the Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation carried forward from FY 2009. Excluding these one-time requests, our overall request would be \$145,674,000, a decrease of \$1,787,000 from the current continuing resolution.



There is an unexpended balance of \$2,500,000 in the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation from FY 2006 that could be transferred to the Revolving Fund under current law. If the transfer is approved by the Appropriations Committees, it would reduce our overall request for new funding to \$145,974,000.

Our funding request for FY 2012 is designed to:

- meet projected requirements for congressional information products and services as authorized by law, provide the necessary funds for materials required for the 2013 Presidential inauguration, and recover the shortfall in this account carried forward from FY 2009;
- fund the operation of GPO's statutory programs that provide public access to congressional and other Government information products nationwide; and
- continue the development of GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys), which provides Congress, Federal agencies, and the public with no-fee digital access to a vast range of congressional and other Federal information products, and support our Oracle-based enterprise infrastructure.

Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation

We are requesting \$100,001,000 for this account to cover the estimated cost of congressional information products and services as authorized by law. This represents an increase of \$6,233,000 over the level provided by the current continuing resolution.

Of the increase, \$1,400,000 is estimated to be required for work to support the 2013 Presidential inaugural and \$1,390,000 is required to fund the shortfall in this appropriation carried forward from FY 2009. The balance of the increase, or \$3,443,000, includes \$2,909,000 for estimated volume increases in certain work categories—principally the *Congressional Record*, business calendars, and hearings—offset by estimated volume decreases in other categories, primarily miscellaneous publications and bills. It also includes \$534,000 for price level changes averaging .6% that are attributable to existing wage contracts and projected cost increases for materials and supplies.

Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents

We are requesting \$42,173,000 for this account to support public access to congressional and other Government information products through GPO's statutory information dissemination programs, primarily the Federal Depository Library Program. Our request represents an increase of \$1,262,000 over the level approved in the current continuing resolution.

Included in the increase is \$196,000 for mandatory pay costs (pertaining only to within-grade increases) and price level changes, \$262,000 for the level of GPO overhead required to be distributed to Salaries and Expenses programs, and \$304,000 for FDsys annual operating costs attributable to Superintendent of Documents programs. In addition, we are requesting \$500,000 to continue legacy systems migration and modernization costs, as well as historical digitization projects approved by the Joint Committee on Printing and involving collaboration with the Library of Congress.

As noted above, there is an unexpended balance of \$2,500,000 in the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation from FY 2006 that could be transferred to the Revolving Fund under current law. If the transfer is approved by the Appropriations Committees, it would reduce our request for new funding to the Salaries and Expenses appropriation by that amount.

Revolving Fund

We are requesting \$6,300,000 for this account, to remain available until expended, to fund essential investments in information technology development. These include \$5,000,000 to continue developing FDsys and \$1,300,000 for support for our Oracle-based enterprise infrastructure. GPO has requested these funds as additions to the revolving fund's working capital to enable the fund to continue financing other investments in upgrades of technology, equipment, and plant modernization.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Hoeven, and Members of the Subcommittee, this concludes my prepared statement. We look forward to working with you and the Subcommittee in your consideration of our appropriations request for FY 2012.



called upon by a properly constituted authority to testify or provide confidential information obtained as a result of and during his or her employment with the Committee.

RULE 16: CHANGES IN SUPPLEMENTARY
PROCEDURAL RULES

(a) **ADOPTION OF CHANGES IN SUPPLEMENTARY RULES:** The Rules of the Committee, other than rules established by statute, or by the Standing Rules and Standing Orders of the Senate, may be modified, amended, or suspended at any time, pursuant to a recorded vote of not less than four members of the full Committee taken at a meeting called with due notice when prior written notice of the proposed change has been provided each member of the Committee.

(b) **PUBLICATION:** Any amendments adopted to the Rules of this Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record in accordance with Rule XXVI(2) of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PART III—SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

Following are sources of the subject matter jurisdiction of the Select Committee:

(a) The Senate Code of Official Conduct approved by the Senate in Title I of S. Res. 110, 95th Congress, April 1, 1977, as amended, and stated in Rules 34 through 43 of the Standing Rules of the Senate;

(b) Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, which states, among others, the duties to receive complaints and investigate allegations of improper conduct which may reflect on the Senate, violations of law, violations of the Senate Code of Official Conduct and violations of rules and regulations of the Senate; recommend disciplinary action; and recommend additional Senate Rules or regulations to insure proper standards of conduct;

(c) Residual portions of Standing Rules 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the Senate as they existed on the day prior to the amendments made by Title I of S. Res. 110;

(d) Public Law 93-191 relating to the use of the mail franking privilege by Senators, officers of the Senate; and surviving spouses of Senators;

(e) Senate Resolution 400, 94th Congress, Section 8, relating to unauthorized disclosure of classified intelligence information in the possession of the Select Committee on Intelligence;

(f) Public Law 95-105, Section 515, relating to the receipt and disposition of foreign gifts and decorations received by Senate members, officers and employees and their spouses or dependents;

(g) Preamble to Senate Resolution 266, 90th Congress, 2d Session, March 22, 1968; and

(h) The Code of Ethics for Government Service, H. Con. Res. 175, 85th Congress, 2d Session, July 11, 1958 (72 Stat. B12). Except that S. Res. 338, as amended by Section 202 of S. Res. 110 (April 2, 1977), and as amended by Section 3 of S. Res. 222 (1999), provides:

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no adjudicatory review shall be initiated of any alleged violation of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, rule, or regulation which was not in effect at the time the alleged violation occurred. No provisions of the Senate Code of Official Conduct shall apply to or require disclosure of any act, relationship, or transaction which occurred prior to the effective date of the applicable provision of the Code. The Select Committee may initiate an adjudicatory review of any alleged violation of a rule or law which was in effect prior to the enactment of the Senate Code of Official Conduct if the alleged violation occurred while such rule or law was in effect and the violation was not a matter resolved on the merits by the predecessor Select Committee.

APPENDIX A—OPEN AND CLOSED
MEETINGS

Paragraphs 5 (b) to (d) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate reads as follows:

(b) Each meeting of a standing, select, or special committee of the Senate, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by a committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in classes (1) through (6) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

(c) Whenever any hearing conducted by any such committee or subcommittee is open to the public, that hearing may be broadcast by radio or television, or both, under such rules as the committee or subcommittee may adopt.

(d) Whenever disorder arises during a committee meeting that is open to the public, or any demonstration of approval or disapproval is indulged in by any person in attendance at any such meeting, it shall be the duty of the Chair to enforce order on his own initiative and without any point of order being made by a Senator. When the Chair finds it necessary to maintain order, he shall have the power to clear the room, and the committee may act in closed session for so long as there is doubt of the assurance of order.

APPENDIX B—"SUPERVISORS" DEFINED

Paragraph 12 of Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate reads as follows:

For purposes of this rule—

(a) a Senator or the Vice President is the supervisor of his administrative, clerical, or other assistants;

(b) a Senator who is the chairman of a committee is the supervisor of the profes-

sional, clerical, or other assistants to the committee except that minority staff members shall be under the supervision of the ranking minority Senator on the committee;

(c) a Senator who is a chairman of a subcommittee which has its own staff and financial authorization is the supervisor of the professional, clerical, or other assistants to the subcommittee except that minority staff members shall be under the supervision of the ranking minority Senator on the subcommittee;

(d) the President pro tempore is the supervisor of the Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, the Chaplain, the Legislative Counsel, and the employees of the Office of the Legislative Counsel;

(e) the Secretary of the Senate is the supervisor of the employees of his office;

(f) the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper is the supervisor of the employees of his office;

(g) the Majority and Minority Leaders and the Majority and Minority Whips are the supervisors of the research, clerical, and other assistants assigned to their respective offices;

(h) the Majority Leader is the supervisor of the Secretary for the Majority and the Secretary for the Majority is the supervisor of the employees of his office; and

(i) the Minority Leader is the supervisor of the Secretary for the Minority and the Secretary for the Minority is the supervisor of the employees of his office.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today as the chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing to recognize the Government Printing Office, GPO, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. GPO opened its doors on March 4, 1861, the same day that President Abraham Lincoln took the oath of office for his first term. Since that time, the agency has used constantly changing technologies to meet the needs of the Congress, Federal agencies, and the public. During GPO's early days, employees relied on ink and paper to publish the text of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Today, as another President from Illinois leads the Nation, GPO employees are using the latest digital technology to document the activities and decisions of our Government and to fulfill GPO's founding mission, which is "Keeping America Informed."

While GPO's past has been about printing, its present and future are being defined by electronic publishing. GPO has been investing for more than a generation in digital production and dissemination technology, an investment that has yielded significant improvements in productivity, capability, and savings for the taxpayers. The GPO estimates that converting to electronic, digital technology has resulted in a savings of 66 percent on the cost of congressional printing alone. Deploying such technology has also reduced the number of employees to fewer than at any time in the past century. And it has reduced dramatically the number of copies of official documents that are printed.

GPO's partnership with the printing industry supports tens of thousands of

jobs. At the same time, by using GPO as a central procurement agency, the Federal Government reduces substantially the cost of these contracts to the taxpayers.

GPO now has a range of products and services that could only have been dreamed of 30 years ago: Online databases of Federal documents with state-of-the-art search and retrieval capabilities available to the public without charge, Government publications available as e-Books, and a public presence not only on the Web but also on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. No longer is GPO primarily a publisher of printed government documents, but a fully integrated electronic publisher and clearinghouse whose products are available in many Internet-based locations. In addition, the State Department relies on GPO to provide highly secure U.S. passports containing sophisticated smart chips. GPO does this in conjunction with the private sector, which supplies certain critical components.

Another key function of GPO is its partnership with more than 1,200 Federal depository libraries across the country. These libraries, established by statute in all 50 States, make Federal documents available to millions of students, researchers, businesses, and others every year in both digital and print formats.

In short, GPO is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three branches of the Federal Government, including U.S. passports for the Department of State as well as the official publications of Congress, the White House, and other Federal agencies. In addition to publication sales, GPO offers permanent public access to Federal Government information at no charge through GPO's Federal Digital System—www.fdsys.gov—and through partnerships with approximately 1,200 libraries nationwide that are part of the Federal Depository Library Program.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the GPO on its 150th anniversary and on its contributions to keeping the public informed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACK CRISTIL

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend the remarkable 58-year career of Jack Cristil, one of our Nation's legendary radio broadcasters and voice of the Mississippi State University Bulldogs. Jack called his last game this past Saturday as Mississippi State defeated the University of Tennessee in men's basketball.

For the better part of six decades, Mississippi State fans welcomed Jack's professionalism and his unambiguous play-by-play descriptions, free from hyperbole or favoritism, onto their radios. His distinctive voice and irreplaceable wit will be missed.

Jack grew up in Memphis, TN, the son of Jewish immigrants from Russia and Latvia. After discovering radio broadcasts of sporting events at the age of six, he knew exactly what he was going to do with his life.

After high school, Jack went on to study broadcast journalism at the University of Minnesota. From there, he worked the minor league baseball circuit in the Southeast before moving to Clarksdale, MI, to broadcast high school football and basketball games. In the summer of 1953, legendary Mississippi State athletic director C.R. "Dudy" Noble hired him for \$25 a game. Now 58 years later, Cristil has covered 636 football games and 1,538 basketball games, roughly 63 percent of all football games played by Mississippi State and about 55 percent of all basketball games.

It was not only the number of games he covered that is of note today, it was at times the significance of the games themselves. During the 1963 NCAA men's basketball tournament, Mississippi State ignored an unwritten rule in our State that prohibited State universities from playing integrated teams. By sneaking out of town in the dark of night, and despite protests from our State's Governor and police, the Bulldogs were able to play an integrated Loyola team in Michigan. This was a significant blow to segregationist sentiment in Mississippi. Jack was right there with the team as it defied its own Governor to help move our State forward.

Through his microphone, Jack Cristil brought Mississippians some great moments in college athletics history. As the play-by-play man for Mississippi State, he also certainly endured some tough losses. Since Jack first broadcast a game for the Bulldogs in 1953, his tenure has spanned 11 head football coaches, 9 head basketball coaches, 11 university presidents, 13 Governors of Mississippi, and 11 Presidents of the United States. He has truly been an enduring figure in our State, throughout the South, and throughout college athletics.

In Mississippi, fans of all teams appreciate the talent and longevity of Jack Cristil. I think it fitting to close by quoting Jack Cristil in saying, "You can wrap this one in maroon and white."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article titled, "It's a wrap for Mr. Maroon and White" from The Clarion Ledger.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Clarion-Ledger—Jackson, MS, Feb. 25, 2011]

IT'S A WRAP FOR MR. MAROON AND WHITE
(By Rick Cleveland)

Doesn't matter which university you pulled for, you listened to Cristil.

You listened because he put you there, in the stadium.

We knew Jack Cristil couldn't go on forever. Here lately, he has sounded tired, worn

out—certainly not himself. So maybe Wednesday's news that Cristil is stepping down after 58 years as the voice of Mississippi State University's football team and 54 years calling basketball wasn't totally unexpected.

Still, we don't have to like it.

Because of health reasons, Cristil, 85, will broadcast his last MSU sports event when the Bulldog basketball team plays the University of Tennessee today in Knoxville. The game is scheduled to start at 5 p.m., with the radio broadcast beginning 30 minutes before. For many of us, it will be like listening to Sinatra sing his last song.

For three generations of Mississippians, our introduction to the Deep South's regional pastime of college football often has been Cristil's gravelly, baritone voice telling us about a 6-tall, 180-pound halfback from Amory or Ackerman or Moss Point. Doesn't matter which university you pulled for, you listened to Cristil. You listened because he put you there, in the stadium. He described the weather and the setting. Told you which team was going which way. He gave you the uniform colors and the context of whatever game he was describing.

His voice was so distinct, you could almost taste the cigarettes he was smoking.

He gave you down, distance, score and how much time was remaining. He did it regularly.

You knew he was for the Mississippi State Bulldogs, but often you couldn't tell it from his account of the game. He didn't cheer. (Although I can't count the times, I saw him slam down his headset, put his hand over the microphone and yell at a basketball official who had just screwed up a call.)

His wit was as dry as the Sahara. Who can forget his legendary call on the Sonic Drive of the game after one particularly galling State defeat? The Bulldogs didn't have a significant drive, so Jack just said it would be his drive back home to Tupelo. I was listening on the way home from another game that day. I laughed so hard I almost ran my car off the road.

ANOTHER ERA

It's hard to put into perspective how long Cristil has been doing what he did so well. He was hired in August 1952 by Dudy Noble, the man many consider the father of Mississippi State athletics. Joe Fortunato, one of the Chicago Bears' famed Monsters of the Midway from the 1950s, played in the first State game Cristil ever broadcast. Fortunato, now 70 and living here in Natchez, will pretty much tell you what any other State fan will.

"It's hard to believe he has been doing it for that long, that well," Fortunato said Thursday.

Eight years ago, on the occasion of Cristil's 50th anniversary of describing State football games, I visited him for most of a thoroughly entertaining day and evening at his home and office in Tupelo. Oh, the stories he told. . . .

Of growing up in Memphis, the son of Jewish immigrants from Russia and Latvia. His parents bought a huge radio to listen to classical music, but that's when Cristil discovered the games at the age of 6. "Here I was in Memphis, and I was absolutely enthralled with the idea that a man could be sitting in some stadium in New York or Chicago or Boston, telling me about a game. It was like magic."

Cristil said he knew right then what he was going to do with his life.

Of filling up his 1948 Plymouth in Clarksdale in August 1952 to drive from Clarksdale to Starkville to be interviewed by Noble.

"I had envisioned a young, energetic, business-type person in a trim suit and a neat hair-do," Cristil said. "But Dudy Noble was a